

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Irwin Nalitt, who at 93 has decided to retire from his position as Councilman of Monroe Township in New Jersey. Councilman Nalitt moved to Monroe in 1982, when it was still largely a farming community. Since he first was elected in 1988, Councilman Nalitt has been instrumental in leading the Township's growing and increasingly active population.

Most people are ready to settle down when they reach the age of 69, but Councilman Nalitt was just starting his busy career as a public servant. Councilman Nalitt has held positions as a member of the Monroe Township School Board and Planning Board and served as the President of the Concordia Civic Association for several years. Even today, Councilman Nalitt remains active on the Monroe Township Master Plan Committee and Library Board of Trustees, and he is the Council Advisor to the Commission on Aging.

One of Councilman Nalitt's most noteworthy accomplishments was the opening of the Monroe Township Library in 1989. He and his late wife Helen were very active in the library's construction and maintenance, and they volunteered many hours to make the library a useful and inviting part of their town.

I have had the pleasure of working with Councilman Nalitt on many matters and know him to be one of the finest public servants in the state. One project was to implement his vision of a free shuttle service that would take passengers around Monroe and to surrounding towns. I was pleased to secure federal funding for this project and to work with Councilman Nalitt to ensure that this service not only would be affordable and convenient for residents, but also would ease traffic and boost the local economy.

While the Township of Monroe has rapidly transformed, Councilman Nalitt has remained a constant source of wisdom, generosity and humor. His sense of duty and purpose is a comfort to the residents of Monroe Township, and his bright humor is always well-received at Council meetings. Though he will be stepping down as Councilman, he plans to stay on the Library Board and the Commission on Aging. Councilman Nalitt has been a cornerstone of the Council for more than 20 years, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his many contributions and commend his active citizenship as a model for all community residents.